

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; transfer students; late enrollment

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **HB 2037**

Introduced by  
Representative Anderson

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701.01 AND 15-702, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2       Section 1. Section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4           15-701.01. High school: graduation: requirements: community  
5           college or university courses: transfer from  
6           private schools; academic credit

7       A. The state board of education shall:

8           1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101  
9 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of  
10 education, for the graduation of pupils from high school.

11          2. Prescribe competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from  
12 high school incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of  
13 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

14          3. Develop and adopt competency tests pursuant to section 15-741 for  
15 the graduation of pupils from high school in at least the areas of reading,  
16 writing and mathematics and shall establish passing scores for each such  
17 test. ~~A pupil not successfully passing the required competency test shall~~  
18 ~~graduate from high school with a recognized diploma if the pupil meets the~~  
19 ~~alternative graduation requirements established by section 15-701.02.~~ A  
20 pupil shall not be required to pass the competency test required in this  
21 paragraph to graduate from high school if the pupil transfers into the  
22 district from out-of-state and has successfully passed a statewide assessment  
23 test on state adopted standards that are substantially equivalent to the  
24 state board adopted academic standards.

25       B. If the state board of education adopts a competency test as a  
26 graduation requirement for a child with a disability as defined in section  
27 15-761 or a child who receives special education pursuant to section 15-763,  
28 pupils with individualized education programs shall not be required to  
29 achieve passing scores on competency tests in order to graduate from high  
30 school unless the pupil is learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's  
31 grade level in a specific academic area and unless passing scores on a  
32 competency test ~~is~~ ARE specifically required in a specific academic area by  
33 the pupil's individualized education program as mutually agreed on by the  
34 pupil's parents and the pupil's individualized education program team or the  
35 pupil, if the pupil is at least eighteen years of age. These competency  
36 tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in the pupil's  
37 individualized education program and school districts and charter schools  
38 shall make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with  
39 individualized education programs. Pupils with section 504 plans as defined  
40 in section 15-731 shall not be required to achieve passing scores on  
41 competency tests in order to graduate from high school unless the pupil is  
42 learning at a level appropriate for the pupil's grade level in a specific  
43 academic area and unless passing scores on a competency test ~~is~~ ARE  
44 specifically required in a specific academic area by the pupil's section 504

1 plan that is developed in consultation with the pupil's parents. These  
2 competency tests shall be administered to pupils in a manner prescribed in  
3 the pupil's section 504 plan and school districts and charter schools shall  
4 make specific and appropriate accommodations for pupils with a section 504  
5 plan. A pupil with an individualized education program or a section 504 plan  
6 who graduates from high school but who is not required to achieve a passing  
7 score on a competency test in order to graduate from high school shall  
8 receive the standard diploma issued by the school district or charter school.

9       **B.** C. The governing board of a school district shall:

10      1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the  
11 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.

12      2. Prescribe criteria for the graduation of pupils from the high  
13 schools in the school district. These criteria shall include accomplishment  
14 of the academic standards in at least reading, writing, mathematics, science  
15 and social studies, as determined by district assessment. Other criteria may  
16 include additional measures of academic achievement and attendance.

17       **C.** D. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and  
18 competency requirements for the graduation of pupils from high school which  
19 are in addition to or higher than the course of study and competency  
20 requirements which the state board prescribes.

21       **D.** E. The governing board may prescribe competency requirements for  
22 the passage of pupils in courses which are required for graduation from high  
23 school.

24       **E.** F. A teacher shall determine whether to pass or fail a pupil in a  
25 course in high school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the basis  
26 of the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed. The governing  
27 board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to pass or fail a pupil in a  
28 course in high school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base  
29 its decision on the competency requirements, if any have been prescribed.

30       **F.** G. Graduation requirements established by the governing board may  
31 be met by a pupil who passes courses in the required or elective subjects at  
32 a community college or university, if the course is at a higher level than  
33 the course taught in the high school attended by the pupil or, if the course  
34 is not taught in the high school, the level of the course is equal to or  
35 higher than the level of a high school course. The governing board shall  
36 determine if the subject matter of the community college or university course  
37 is appropriate to the specific requirement the pupil intends it to fulfill  
38 and if the level of the community college or university course is less than,  
39 equal to or higher than a high school course, and the governing board shall  
40 award one-half of a carnegie unit for each three semester hours of credit the  
41 pupil earns in an appropriate community college or university course. If a  
42 pupil is not satisfied with the decision of the governing board regarding the  
43 amount of credit granted or the subjects for which credit is granted, the  
44 pupil may request that the state board of education review the decision of

1 the governing board, and the state board shall make the final determination  
2 of the amount of credit to be given the pupil and for which subjects. The  
3 governing board shall not limit the number of credits that is required for  
4 high school graduation and that may be met by taking community college or  
5 university courses. For the purposes of this subsection:

6       1. "Community college" means an educational institution that is  
7 operated by a community college district as defined in section 15-1401 or a  
8 postsecondary educational institution under the jurisdiction of an Indian  
9 tribe recognized by the United States department of the interior.

10      2. "University" means a university under the jurisdiction of the  
11 Arizona board of regents.

12       G. H. A pupil who transfers **AFTER THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, FROM**  
13 **OUTSIDE THIS STATE OR** from a private school, shall be provided with a list  
14 that indicates those credits that have been accepted and denied by the school  
15 district. A pupil may request to take an examination in each particular  
16 course in which credit has been denied. The school district shall accept the  
17 credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an examination and  
18 receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by a teacher in the  
19 school district who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is  
20 based. In addition to the above requirements, the governing board of a  
21 school district may prescribe requirements for the acceptance of the credits  
22 of pupils who transfer from a private school.

23       H. I. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow high  
24 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course  
25 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without  
26 enrolling in the course or subject.

27       Sec. 2. Section 15-702, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

28       15-702. High school equivalency diploma: fees: rules

29       A. Any person who is sixteen years of age or older and who passes a  
30 general educational development test shall be awarded an Arizona high school  
31 equivalency diploma by the state board of education and the state  
32 superintendent of public instruction. The state board of education may  
33 establish eligibility requirements for persons wishing to take a general  
34 educational development test, except that the minimum age required to take  
35 the test may not be older than sixteen nor shall the board require the  
36 completion of any high school credits.

37       B. A person who meets the minimum course of study and competency  
38 requirements prescribed by the state board of education for graduation from  
39 high school through a combination of high school credits and community  
40 college and university credits, which are converted to high school credits in  
41 the same manner as provided in section 15-701.01, subsection ~~F~~ G by the  
42 governing board or the state board of education, shall be awarded an Arizona  
43 high school equivalency diploma.

1       C. The state board of education may establish and collect fees for the  
2 issuance and reissuance of the following:  
3           1. A general equivalency diploma.  
4           2. A general equivalency transcript.  
5           D. The state board of education shall ~~develop~~ ADOPT rules for fee  
6 waivers for the general equivalency diploma and general equivalency  
7 transcripts.